

(c) To the extent that prior opinions and interpretations relating to the election of officers of labor organizations under the Act are inconsistent or in conflict with the principles stated in this part, they are hereby rescinded and withdrawn.

§ 452.2 Application of union constitution and bylaws.

Elections required to be held as provided in title IV are to be conducted in accordance with the validly adopted constitution and bylaws of the labor organizations insofar as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of the Act.

[38 FR 18324, July 9, 1973, as amended at 63 FR 33780, June 19, 1998]

§ 452.3 Interpretations of constitution and bylaws.

The interpretation consistently placed on a union's constitution by the responsible union official or governing body will be accepted unless the interpretation is clearly unreasonable.³

§ 452.4 Investigatory provision—application.

The provisions of section 601 of the Act provide general investigatory authority to investigate alleged violations of the Act including violations of title IV. However, section 601 in and of itself provides no remedy, and the section must be read in conjunction with the remedy and statutory scheme of section 402, i.e., exhaustion of internal union remedies and a complaint to the Secretary following completion of the election before suit can be filed. In view of the remedy provided, an investigation prior to completion of an election may have the effect of publicizing the activities or unsubstantiated allegations of one faction to the prejudice of the opposition. To avoid this result, and as a matter of sound statutory construction, the Department will exercise its investigatory authority only in circumstances in which the outcome of the election could not be affected by the investigation.⁴ Thus, the Depart-

³ *English v. Cunningham*, 282 F.2d 848 (C.A.D.C. 1960).

⁴ However questions involving the use of force or violence or the threat of the use of

ment ordinarily will employ its investigatory authority only where the procedural requirements for a title IV investigation have been met; but in unusual circumstances or where necessary to collect or preserve evidence an investigation may be conducted after the conclusion of balloting.

§ 452.5 Effect of violation on outcome.

Since the remedy under section 402 is contingent upon a finding by the court, among other things, that the violation "may have affected the outcome of an election"⁵ the Secretary as a matter of policy will not file suit to enforce the election provisions unless the violations found are such that the outcome may have been affected.⁶

[38 FR 18324, July 9, 1973, as amended at 50 FR 31310, Aug. 1, 1985; 63 FR 33780, June 19, 1998]

§ 452.6 Delegation of enforcement authority.

The authority of the Secretary under the Act has been delegated in part to the Assistant Secretary.

[38 FR 18324, July 9, 1973, as amended at 50 FR 31309, Aug. 1, 1985]

Subpart B—Other Provisions of the Act Affecting Title IV

§ 452.7 Bill of Rights, title I.

The provisions of title I, "Bill of Rights of Members of Labor Organizations"⁷ (particularly section 101(a)(1) "Equal Rights," section 101(a)(2) "Freedom of Speech and Assembly," and section 101(a)(5) "Safeguards against Improper Disciplinary Action") are related to the rights pertaining to elections. Direct enforcement of title I rights, as such, is limited to civil suit in a district court of the United States by the person whose rights have been

force or violence under circumstances which may violate section 610 (29 U.S.C. 530) of the Act will be referred promptly to the Department of Justice for appropriate action.

⁵ Act, sec. 402(b) (29 U.S.C. 482).

⁶ *Dunlop v. Bachowski*, 421 U.S. 560, 570 (1975), citing *Wirtz v. Glass Bottle Blowers*, 389 U.S. 463, 472 (1968) and *Schonfeld v. Wirtz*, 285 F. Supp. 705, 707-708 (S.D.N.Y. 1966).

⁷ 73 Stat. 522, 29 U.S.C. 411.